

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 L-03 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 SP-02 /085 W
-----006788 031222Z /50
P 031131Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8640

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 12020

DEPARTMENT PASS USDA/OGSM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EG
SUBJECT: OVERDUE SHIPPING AND ARRIVAL (S&A) REPORTS
- COVERING TITLE I, PL-480 SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT.

REFS: (A) STATE 109627, (B) FASTO 104, (C) CAIRO 11287.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A), WE CHECKED OUR RECORDS TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF OVERDUE S&A REPORTS. ACCORDING TO REFTEL (B), THERE WERE 46 PAGES COVERING SHIPMENTS DURING 1976 AND 1977 OVERDUE AS OF 4/19/78. HOWEVER, 12 PAGES WERE FORWARDED TO OGSM ON 4/10/78 AS REPORTED REFTEL (C), AND 10 MORE WERE FORWARDED ON 4/24/78. THEREFORE, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT AS OF 4/24/78, THERE WERE 24 PAGES OF S&A REPORTS OVERDUE FOR 1976 AND 1977. OF THESE, 2 CONCERN SHIPMENTS OF TOBACCO FOR WHICH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY IS RESPONSIBLE, AND REMAINING 22 CONCERN SHIPMENTS OF COMMODITIES FOR WHICH MINISTRY OF SUPPLY IS RESPONSIBLE (WHEAT, WHEAT FLOUR, DRY BEANS AND CORN).

2. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY HAS EXCELLENT RECORD OF BOTH ARRIVAL AND COMPLIANCE REPORTING ON TOBACCO. WHEN CONTACTED CONCERNING 2 PAGES OF OVERDUE S&A
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REPORTS FOR TOBACCO (PAGES 81 AND 83), THEY INFORMED US THEIR RECORDS SHOW THAT THESE PAGES WERE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO AMEMBASSY. HOWEVER, OUR RECORDS DO NOT INDICATE THAT THEY WERE RECEIVED. WE HAVE ALREADY SENT PHOTOCOPIES OF MISSING PAGES TO MINISTRY. THEY AGREED TO CERTIFY THEM AGAIN AND RETURN ASAP. WE ARE ALSO CHECKING TO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW ORIGINAL

PAGES WERE RETURNED TO AMEMBASSY, IF THEY WERE IN FACT.

3. AGATTACHE AND STAFF HAD LONG MEETING ON TUESDAY 5/02 WITH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IBRAHIM DARWISH AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY COMMODITIES (GASC) PLUS AHMED EL DAKKAK, UNDERSECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND IMPORT AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF SUPPLY. AGATTACHE POINTED OUT EXTENT OF OVERDUE REPORTS, IMPORTANCE THAT USG ATTACHES TO PROMPT SUBMISSION OF REPORTS AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL (A), NOTIFIED DARWISH THAT OVERDUE S&A REPORTING MUST BE BROUGHT CURRENT IN ORDER TO AVOID DELAYS IN ISSUING FUTURE PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS.

4. WHILE SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED WITH DARWISH ON NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, IT APPEARED THIS WAS FIRST TIME HE REALIZED EXTENT OF OVERDUE REPORTS AND FACT THAT SOME HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS. HE GAVE STERN LECTURE TO GASC STAFF IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC, INSTRUCTED THEM TO HAVE ALL 1976 AND 1977 S&A REPORTS SUBMITTED TO AMEMBASSY BY COB THURSDAY 5/04, AND PROMISED THOROUGH REVIEW OF SYSTEM TO SEEK MORE EFFICIENT AND FASTER WAY TO OBTAIN DATA NEEDED FOR PREPARATION OF REPORTS. EL DAKKAK ALSO OFFERED TO MEET WITH AGATTACHE OR STAFF AT ANY TIME TO RESOLVE REPORTING PROBLEMS.
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5. GASC OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT THEY MUST OBTAIN DATA NEEDED TO COMPLETE S&A REPORTS FROM SILO COMPANY IN ALEXANDRIA, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNLOADING GRAIN IN ALL EGYPTIAN PORTS. SILO COMPANY APPARENTLY TAKES ITS TIME IN RESPONDING TO GASC REQUESTS FOR DATA AFTER RECEIPT OF S&A REPORTS FROM AMEMBASSY. AGATTACHE SUGGESTED THAT GASC CONSIDER ASKING SILO COMPANY TO FURNISH NECESSARY DATA IMMEDIATELY AFTER VESSELS ARE DISCHARGED, INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL GASC RECEIVES S&A REPORTS AND ASKS FOR INFO. GASC AGREED TO CONSIDER PRACTICALITY OF THIS APPROACH

6. LATER SAME DAY, GASC GAVE AGATTACHE PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT ON THE 22 PAGES OF OVERDUE S&A REPORTS FOR 1976 (4 PAGES) AND 1977 (18 PAGES) AS FOLLOWS:

- A. SIX PAGES (97, 120, 122, 137, 142 AND 144) WERE COMPLETED AND GIVEN TO AGATTACHE FOR TRANSMISSION TO WASHINGTON.
- B. NINE PAGES (99, 104, 106, 110, 114, 117,

126, 134 AND 145) WERE FOUND IN GASC FILES BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. GASC PROMISED IMMEDIATE REVIEW TO DETERMINE THEIR STATUS.

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TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 SP-02 /085 W
-----006710 031222Z /50

P 031131Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8641

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- C. SEVEN PAGES (32, 62, 65, 90, 93, 94 AND 136) COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN GASC FILES. THEY REQUESTED COPIES FROM AGATTACHE AND THESE WERE DELIVERED TO THEM ON SAME DAY.

7. COMMENT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THIS DEMARCHE WITH GASC WILL RESULT IN SOME PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR PROCESSING OF S&A REPORTS. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO RECOGNIZE THAT GOE RECORDKEEPING IS NOT ON SAME STANDARD AS THAT OF USG. IF DARWISH CAN DELIVER ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO GASC STAFF TO FURNISH ALL 1976 AND 1977 S&A REPORTS ON OR BEFORE 5/04, WE BELIEVE GOE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CURRENT ON S&A REPORTING, SINCE ALL 1978 REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED DURING PAST FEW WEEKS AND SHIPS MAY NOT HAVE UNLOADED CARGO YET. WITHIN LIMITS OF STAFF AND OTHER WORK ASSIGNMENTS, AGATTACHE WILL CLOSELY MONITOR STATUS OF S&A REPORTS IN FUTURE AND IMMEDIATELY BRING TO ATTENTION OF GASC ANY SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN AUDIT OF FIELD COMPLIANCE REPORTING TO BE NEEDED, AND WOULD VIEW ANY DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF FUTURE PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS ON GROUNDS OF TARDY REPORTING BY GOE AS UNREALISTIC, UNNECESSARY AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO USG EFFORTS TO ASSIST ECONOMY OF GOE. END COMMENT. EILTS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DEMARCHE, TOBACCO, CARGO SHIPS, PL 480 TITLE 1
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO12020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0642
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgkk.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 432cb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 109627, 78 CAIRO 11287
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2809553
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVERDUE SHIPPING AND ARRIVAL (S&A) REPORTS - COVERING TITLE I, PL-480 SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT.
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/432cb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014